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Internet restored in Rudraprayag after 12-hour suspension amid Nagarasu Gurdwara tensions



TNM (With ANI Inputs)



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ANI Photo | Internet restored in Rudraprayag after 12-hour suspension amid Nagarasu Gurdwara tensions

Internet services in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand were restored on Sunday after being suspended for nearly 12 hours by the district administration in response to tensions at the Nagarasu Gurdwara. This is only the third instance of such a suspension since Uttarakhand's formation 26 years ago.

In the first 15 years following the state's creation, no internet shutdowns were required to maintain law and order. Previous temporary suspensions in parts of Uttarakhand were imposed based on administrative orders and Home Department recommendations due to potential disturbances. A major internet shutdown occurred in February 2024 after the Banbhoolpura violence in Haldwani.

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The unrest at the Nagarasu Gurdwara reportedly began on June 20 when a group of individuals arrived, causing trouble through fighting and misconduct towards volunteers. Despite this, the Gurdwara authorities allowed them to stay overnight and provided food, according to Baba Beant Singh, granthi responsible for managing the Gurdwara. Singh alleged that the group became violent, assaulted volunteers, vandalised property, and threw stones at police and locals from upper floors.

“They came here the day before yesterday and started fighting. They started beating and abusing the volunteers. Even then, we let them stay overnight and provided them with food. They started fighting with us again the next morning. Still, we tried to reason with them and make them leave,” Singh stated.

He added that the situation escalated on June 21 as the group engaged in further altercations with volunteers, prompting the Gurdwara management to attempt to peacefully persuade them to leave. Singh also alleged that the group cut off the water supply, damaged all solar panels on the building, and continued vandalising the premises throughout the night.

Rudraprayag District Magistrate Vishal Mishra addressed the situation on Monday, urging the public to disregard rumours of a takeover or hostage situation at the Gurdwara, though he confirmed a dispute had taken place. He stated that the Gurdwara

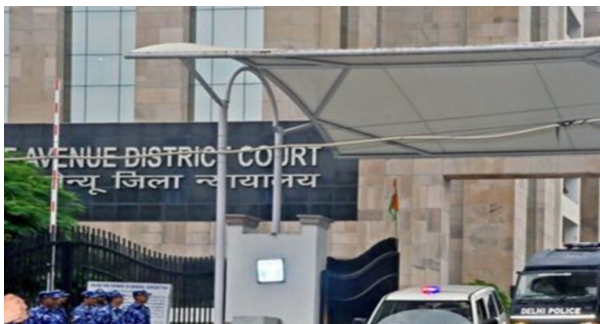
management committee was now functioning peacefully.

“A dispute erupted at a Gurdwara in Nagrasu between Nihang Sikhs, the Gurdwara management and the Sikh sevadars who live there. The Ardaas, Langar and prayers at the Gurdwara are all running smoothly and peacefully. The movement of people through the Gurdwara is also continuing normally. No one is facing any problems,” DM Mishra said.

He further added, “Don’t pay attention to rumours that the Gurdwara has been taken over, that someone has been taken hostage, or that any violence has occurred. No such incident has taken place. The Gurdwara’s management committee is operating in a completely peaceful environment. There are no problems of any kind.”

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